

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02335 230658Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SS-15
SP-02 OMB-01 NSC-05 PA-01 STR-07 CEA-01 /076 W
-----098166 231551Z /45
R 230652Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 12

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2335

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, KS
SUBJ: PL-480

REF: A. STATE 68549, B. 77 STATE 304844

1. EPB HAS TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT PL480 QUESTION HAS NOW GONE TO THE BLUE HOUSE FOR FINAL APPROVAL AND THAT WE CAN EXPECT GO-AHEAD WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION HAS TURNED OUT TO BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ROKG THAN WE HAD EXPECTED. SOME, PARTICULARLY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REMAIN DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS THAT THE PROPOSED LETTER IS NOT WHAT IT PURPORTS TO BE AND THAT SOMEHOW IT WILL BE USED TO TIE THE WHOLE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TO THE PL 480 AGREEMENT AGAIN. THERE MAY, IN FACT, BE SOME BUREAUCRATIC RIVALRIES INVOLVED AS WELL, OF WHICH WE CAN ONLY CATCH A GLIMPSE.

3. AT ANY RATE, ECON COUNSELOR HAS BEEN OVER THE GROUND REPEATEDLY WITH DPB, THE DCM WITH THE MOFA VICE MINISTER AND THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE MINISTER AS WELL AS DPM NAM, AS REF A MAKES CLEAR, THEY HAVE ALSO SOUGHT CONFIRMATION OF WHAT THE EMBASSY HAS TOLD THEM FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

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4. THE HPERSENSITIVITY WHICH THE ROKG HAS DISPLAYED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS SOME INDICATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES, IF FOR EXAMPLE THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION COMES UP IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PL 480 AMENDMENT AGAIN AS IT DID IN THE NY TIMES ARTICLE REPORTED IN REF B. THIS BEING AN ELECTION YEAR HERE NO DOUBT ADDS TO THE DIFFICULTY. BUT IT WOULD BE NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT NO DENIAL WOULD BE TOTALLY

EFFECTIVE, AND, FOR EXAMPLE, THE JOBS OF SEVERAL MINISTERS
INCLUDING DPM NAM WOULD BE ON THE LINE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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